# WASHINGTON.

LIBERTY AND UNION, NOW AND FOREVER, ONE AN

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1864.

RECLAMATIONS AGAINST GREAT BRITAIN.

We had proposed to offer to our readers some portion of the public press, and by leaders of opinion in Congress and elsewhere, to magnify the grounds of popular dissatisfaction against Great Britain because of her alleged unfriendliness to the United States at the present time. But the views which we had intended to submit are, under one head at least, so well presented by the Boston observations on the disposition manifested by a Courier that we shall do little more than recall the but a partial delegation of

Law School, in a recent communication to the Boston Daily Advertiser, has avowed the opinion that when peace comes the questions between us and England will be indeed of the gravest character."

The origin of these "questions" is indicated is the following reference to the depredations on our the following reference to the depredations on our prizes made under it acts of piracy, all occasions of bitter-time that the following reference to the depredations on our prizes made under it acts of piracy, all occasions of bitter-time that the following reference to the depredations on our prizes made under it acts of piracy, all occasions of bitter-time that the following reference to the depredations on our prizes made under it acts of piracy, all occasions of bitter-time that the following reference to the depredations on our prizes made under it acts of piracy, all occasions of bitter-time that the following reference to the depredations on our prizes made under it acts of piracy, all occasions of bitter-time that the following reference to the depredations on our prizes made under it acts of piracy and our two nations are "when peace comes the questions between us and commerce committed by the insurgent sruisers which have evaded the vigilance of the British authorities by escaping to sea from British ports.

"We ought not to forget-she should not be suffered to forget, and it will be in vain to ask our people to forget— that the final reason and motive which induced the English Government to put any check on the piracy which went forth from the sheres and dock-yards of England on its career of destruction, and found in British ports the means of continuing that career, was the fear that when she was again engaged in any war her own commerce would, on her own principles and her own practice, be swept from the seas by ships built, armed, and manned in American ports.

To this he adds:

"I should be sorry to think I could be more desirous than I now am that when our reclamations for her wrongs are made against England they should be pressed with the urgency due to our rights, but with the decency and dece rum due to our self-respect, and therefore not as the de mands of England were pressed on us in the matter of the

Trent in the hour of our weakness.

"There is abundant reason, of the utmost weight, why we should not commit the disagreeable felly of retorting we should not continue to the wrong by wrong, or insolence by insolence. But no reason why we should not think and call that wrong which is so, and that insolence which is so. When she charges us with a great wrong, without waiting to know what we do in the way of acknowledgment or reparation, and brings this charge in terms of contemptuons obloquy, there is no reason why we should not say to her, and show to her, that if we have done this wrong it was because we violated rules which England has broken, and disregarded rights and principles which England has scorned, and followed too closely precedents which England has given us."

Another correspondent of the same journal, under the signature of "Privatus," appears to us to take a much more judicious view of the whole subject, when, in controverting some of the ideas prevalent in this country at the present time, he says:

"Not only has it been said that our people will not forget British insolence, but it is implied that, in consideration of certain grave questions yet to be settled between the two countries, it may become their duty not to forget it. That the prophecy is true, I have no doubt. The peo-ple will not forget their lesson. That the contingent duty will be scrupulcusly discharged by the majority of our citigens (not excepting our lawyers and merchants) is in the highest degree probable. But a man may ask whether one sy of making grave questions graver is not to turn pas For with too many of the people is is and will be passion, however cooler and wiser men may take it. Not only not to forget, but to blister the memory from time to time lest you should forget, is indeed the high road to a very grave way of settling grave questions If settlement means war, apply the blast to public opinion. If, however, peace is the goal, I would meekly suggest that no nursing will be necessary to keep our wrath sufficiently warm for all diplomatic purposes. Insolent manners are, indeed, a sore trial to neighbors, and it is a pity that we have to deal with some saucy boys, who will only grow more saucy as we grow more angry. To be sure, there is this, and it cannot expect such a concession from England the rod. True, if you had not a bruiser behind to manage on the present occasion. To go into a war, the result of which would be the mutual station of commerce, with peace as the fruit of common exhaustion, might yield little national glory and less

national gain.
"For England let those break a lance, if they think it worth while, who doubt whether she can fight her own battles. It is for our own sake rather than hers, that I urge that we should not work our elves up into implacable outerness. If we have just claims against her, we shall find in a calm, steadfast, and dignified demeanor the surest means of asserting and establishing them. The popular will, just now, needs the curb more than the spur. It may seem to be a harmless pastime to pour out philippics or England. It is only thrice slaying the slain. much as by-and-by every one of these may be found lying across the path to amity and union, it may be wise to seek

Those who have so much respect for British pre cedents which countenance extreme belligerent rights, will, it is hoped, have some respect for the precedents of our own country in the matter of reclamations for spoliations committed on commerce by belligerent cruisers which have escaped from a neutral port. On this head we cite the memoranda reproduced by the Boston Courier:

" In the South American wars of independence the sym pathies of a vast number of our people were enlisted on sympathies gave great trouble to the Government. In this the advent of the festal day shall swell the tide general revolt of the Spanish and Portuguese colonies Uru- of joy which yesterday found expression in songs guay, then better known as the Banda Oriental, was in arms to assert its liberty. Gen. Artigas was regarded as the hero of the revolution, and certain citizens of Baltimore, resembling, as the London Star observes. somewhat our own disinterested Liverpool shipowningly they surreptitiously fitted out privateers, raised the flag of Gen. Artigas, and sallied out to capture Portuguese traders. The result was of course that the Portuguese Minister complained to the United States Government, and demanded repayment, at its hands, of the losses thus of our unhappy land this anniversary comes with inflicted upon Portuguese merchants. Curiously, one of its mementoes of private sorrow and public calathe grounds of his complaint was that Gen. Artigas had no ports at his command, and that therefore ships under his flag were mere pirates, not entitled to belligerent rights. In reply to these demands John Quincy Adams, then Secretary of State, wrote the letter given below, which has been reproduced by the Manchester (England) Janus should be still expanded wide on the day Examiner from a message of President Fillmore to Congress in January, 1852.

John Q. Adams to the Chevalier Correa de Serra. "DEPARTMENT OF STATE, MARCH 14, 1848.

"SIR : Your letter of the Sth instant, complaining of the capture of three Portuguese ships by privateers, said to be htted out in the United States, manned by American crews, and commanded by American captains, though under colors other than those of the United States, has been

· The Government of the United States having used all the means in its power to prevent the fitting out and arming of vessels in their ports to cruise against any nation with whom they are at peace, and having faithfully carried into execution the laws enacted to preserve inviolate the neutral and pacific obligations of this Union, cannot consider itself bound to indemnify individual foreigners for losses by captures over which the United States have neither control nor jurisdiction. For such events no nation can in principle, nor does in practice, hold itself responsi ble. A decisive reason for this, if there were no other, in the inability to provide a tribunal before which the fact

documents to which you refer must of course b ex parte statements, which in Portugal or Brazil, as well as in this country, coald only serve as a foundation for ac-tions in damages, or for the prosecution and trial of the

ion between them, to punish the outrages which may be duly proved, and to restore the property to its rightful owners, should it also be brought within our jurisdiction and found upon judicial inquiry to have been taken in the manner represented by your letter. By the universal laws of nations the obligations of the American Government

Be pleased, sir, to accept the assurance, &c.

The Chevalier Correa de Serra."

A year later the Portuguese Minister made another strong representation of the case, from which the following is an extract, but with no better success:

M. Correa de Serra to Mr. Adams.

memoranda which it reproduces for the instruction of its readers.

Prof. Theophilus Parsons, of the Cambridge

Prof. Theophilus Parsons, of the Cambridge the general sate shment? Where is the Swiss port from which they sate their departure and be fitted or refitted? water the Swiss court of admiralty that could judge their prizes? If some other nations allow them the use of their ports and courts, she deserts by that act the ness and mistrust are done away, and our two nations are immediately in those relations, each to the other, that the nature of their situations naturally calls for-perpetual amity on both sides, and friendly, mutual, advantageous

It will be perceived that here the very same demand was pressed officially upon our Government that many of than two-thirds) were Democrats and twentyour newspapers and public men have continually urged as the duty of England, namely, that the acts of hostile cruisers be declared piracy and their flag illegal. But our Government declined to accede to the demand. Portugal kept alive the claim for many years, but it was at last brought to an end by the following peremptory letter of Mr. Clayton, in 1850, to the representative of her Most Faithful Majesty:

MR. CLAYTON TO MR. J. C. DE FIGANIERE E MORAO. "DEPARTMENT OF STATE,

"The undersigned, Secretary of State of the United States of American States of America, has the honor to acknowledge the re ceipt of the note which the Min'ster Resident of her Most Faithful Majesty addressed to him on the 25th instant, in viting attention to depredations on the commerce of Por tugal, committed thirty of forty years ago by citizens, is alleged, of this country, and in vessels owned and fitted out by them, to cruise under the flag of Artigas, the noted Banda Oriental chief, for the redress of which unlawful acts the Minister of Portugal assures the undersigned that his Government has never ceased to hold that of the United States bound by well-known principles of the law of nations.

The undersigned is surprised at the reappearance of of the ancient proposition to appoint a joint commission to determine and assess damages—a proposition which was rejected at the time upon substantial grounds; and, with-out the Minister's assurance to that effect, the undersigned would not have supposed it credible that Portugal seriously cherished any intention to revive them. In reply, there fore, to the note which the Minister of her Most Faithful Majesty has presented in the name of his Government, the reigned must now, by the President's order, inform him that he declines reopening the proffered discus-

ion.
"The undersigned avails himself of this occasion to re-new to the Minister Resident of her Most Faithful Majesty the assurance of his high consideration.
"John M. CLAYTON.

"The Commander J. C. de Figaniere e Morso." It is difficult to see how, with such a record, we can appear as claimants for damages at the Court of St. James on account of the captures made by vessels fitted out in England for "the Confederates." The case of Portugal ly two millions) were proportionally as great as or greater from the depredations of the Artigas-Baltimore privateers than ours have been from the Confederates. The Portuguese complained, as we complain, that due precautions were not taken to prevent the escape of privateers from neutral ports; but our Government never would admit

# THE HOLYDAY SEASON

We are again called to greet our readers on the return of the holyday season, which sets its golden signet on the circle of "the rolling months and the revolving year." On the night of Saturday last the eve of Christmastide, the social festival of Representatives thanked Commodore Wilkes for capturwhich, like a herald, precedes the coming of the out our broad land, amid the merry greetings of friends and the innocent mirthfulness of children, them .. with their hearts ever open more to the joys than the sorrows of life. And yesterday the sound of the church-going bell ran into Christmas chimes, calling the reverent of all creeds to rejoice in the wondrous nativity of that "greater man," the second Adam, and Lord from heaven, who, by his life and his death, has power to atone for man's first disobedience and to regain the blissful seat lost amid the bowers of Eden. And to-day the social the side of the insurgents, and the active nature of those pleasures which are immemorially associated with

of praise and vows of thanksgiving. come, erecting as it does the altar of fireside joys voice of earthly happiness with the songs of hea-

venly thanksgiving! But we must not forget that to many in all parts mity, weighing heavily upon wounded hearts in which only fresh notes of lamentation and woe are waked by the echoes of the joy that bursts from others' lips. Alas! that the doors of the temple of that commemorates the birth of the Prince of Peace! He chose for the time of his incarnation a period in the world's history when universal peace reigned on sea and land throughout the habitable world. As Milton sings :

No war or battle sound Was heard the world around : The idle spear and shield were high up hung. The hooked chariot stood Instain'd with hostile blood;

The trumpet spake not to the armed throng : And kings sat still with awful eye,
As if they surely knew their sovran Lord was by.

But peaceful was the night Wherein the Prince of Light His reign of peace upon the earth began."

The nativity of Christ was the prelude if even He learned obedience by the things which He suffered, who among the sons of earth has a persons supposed to have committed the depredations and right to murmur and repine at the allotments of tives committed a gross act of "disloyalty," if to outrages alleged in them. Should the parties come within the jurisdiction of the United States there are courts of admiralty competent to ascertain the facts upon litiga- as the good of this our mortal life'?

EXECUTIVE RESPO

It will be within the Hon. HENRY WINTER that on the 14th instan oduced into the House of DAVIS, of Maryland the Committee on Foreign Representatives y, the following resolution : Affairs in the

t Congress has a constitutional right t of the United States, as well in the recognian author reign Powers as in other things, and it is the consti ity of the President to respect that policy, not less plomatic relations than in the use of the national force en authorized by law, and the propriety of any declaration of foreign policy by Congress is sufficiently proved by the vote which pronounces it; and such proposition, while pending and undetermined, is not a fit topic of diplomatic xplanation with any foreign Power."

This resolution, as thus reported from the Committee on Foreign Affairs, was, on motion of Mr. Farnsworth, of Illinois, laid on the table by a vote of yeas 69, nays 63.

At a subsequent day Mr. Davis, acting in his capacity as a Representative, and not as an organ of the Committee, introduced the same resolution, and asked a vote on its adoption. Upon suggestion from Mr. Stevens, of Pennsylvania, the author of the resolution consented to strike out the word "President" and insert the ed-yeas 118, nays 8. The latter half was then agreed to-yeas 67, nays 58. Of the sixty-seven members who voted in

the affirmative, forty-six (a majority of more one Republicans; while of the fifty-eight negative votes, fifty-six were cast by Republicans and two only by Democrats. In other words. twenty-one Republicans united with forty-six Democrats to censure the Executive, while two Democrats united with fifty-six Republicans to resist the measure. The Republicans who voted for the resolution were Mesers. Allison of Iowa, Ames of Massachusetts, Anderson of Kentucky, Baxter of Vermont, Blow and Boyd of Missouri, Davis of Maryland, Garfield of Ohio, Griswold of New York, Highy of California, Hubbard of Iowa, Jenckes of Rhode Island, Moorhead of Pennsylvania, Morrill of Vermont, Orth of Indiana, Price of Iowa, Schenck of Ohio, Sloan of Wisconsin, Smithers of Delaware, Stevens of Pennsylvania, and Williams of Pennsylvania.

It is known that the resolution of Mr. Davis was directed to the censure of a despatch written by Mr. Seward to Mr. Dayton for the purpose of advising the latter, and through him the Government of France, that a resolution previously adopted by the House of Representatives in protest against the French occupation of Mexico would work no difference in the neutral policy adopted by the Executive branch of the Government on this topic. And we have recurred to the subject because we find the conduct of Mr. Seward, in writing that despatch, and of the members of the House in condemning it, subjected to invidious comments which seem to us equally out of place.

When the resolution as reported from the Committee on Foreign Affairs had been rejected, and against this country was stronger than any which we can before the same resolution as submitted by Mr. bring against England, and the losses of that Power (near- Davis had been passed, the Washington correspondent of the New York Anti-Slavery Standard wrote

"The debate on the Winter Davis resolution, Thursday afternoon, is a specimen of the folly of debating every sub-ject in Congress. Fortunately the resolution was tabled, for it certainly would have been a misfortune to have passed it, and thus deliberately have censured the President for his foreign policy. Yet, at the same time, Mr. Davis was not far from right in his position. ligent person can deny that Mr. Seward's foreign policy en cringing? Who can deny that he did insult the House in his despatch to Mr. Dayton? Davis had been content with a censure of Mr. Seward's Republican members were not willing to censure the oreign policy of the Government. Nor will a fair-minded man deny that the State Department has exhibited much in 1860: ing Mason and Slidell. It went off in a sudden transport of delight, while Mr. Seward already saw the danger, and sacred day, was celebrated in many homes through-was rendering a disavowal of the proceedings compara-tively easy. The Heuse is easily swayed by the passions of the hour; the Government is supposed to rise above

Winter Davis is a man of magnificent talents. It is a delight to hear him speak. His clear, ringing tones electrify his audience, and there is always danger that he will vercome the sound sense of his hearers. He is a most nanly speaker. His independence compels admiration, yet he is a dangerous leader; whoever follows him will certainly go to destruction. He is no statesman, for he loves opposition too well. He was made to be in a minority, and does not know how to conduct himself when acting with the majority. The speeches made in reply to him by Messrs. Boutwell, Dawer, Littlejobn, and others were just, and defended the House from the criticisms hurled at it by Davis.

"Mr Seward was wholly in the wrong in his despatch; there can be no doubt of it; but that fact is not sufficient justification for a vote of censure upon the President. It seems to me that it was madness for the House, in the midst of a war which threatens to exhaust the means of the country, to indu'ge in an offensive reiteration of the f praise and vows of thanksgiving.

Monroe doctrine. Do gentlemen propose now to drive
Maximilian from his throne? Of course not. Then why not wait till we are willing to back our words with acts both for the life that now is and that which is to Mr. Lincoln has certainly got the right idea of the policy to be followed with foreign Governments. He will endure any thing and every thing for the sake of conquering the tire vote for President in 1860, including all the Southern ers,' imagined that they saw a fair chance of plunder which would be justified by the public feeling. Accordthe Most High. Happy they who can mingle the after it is over the feeling our foreign policy after it is over. England and France will be very glad to treat us with consideration, and as for Maximilian, Mexican people do not desire to keep him, he will be com-

This is a fair specimen of the political "Bunsbyisms" by which certain "loyal" writers undertake to mean nothing when they say something, or order for an election to be held on the 26th instant, to to say nothing when they mean something. "It ascertain whether the people of those counties, including was a fortunate thing that Mr. Davis's resolution the rebels of course, wished the operation of the State did not pass, for to have passed it would have been deliberately to censure the foreign policy of the Col. White to suspend the election. President." "Yet it must be admitted," quoth therefore, it must be conceded, was far from being right in his." "Mr. Seward, writing for the than the House in reference to our foreign relations, and the inference therefore is that he was not far from being right in this case when there is no authority to go. In other respects the functions of civil

doubt that he was altogether in the wrong." The reader will find in this specimen of composition a good illustration of the difficulties which attend the profession of journalism under certain His passion. If He was the great peace-bringer, circumstances, when to have definite opinions on He was also the great cross-bearer of the race; and any subject is fraught with the danger of coming in conflict with the "policy of the President." It must be admitted that the House of Representa-

waited until the resolution of Mr. Davis had been actually passed he might perhaps have deemed it prudent to modify his language on this score.

It is very common with a certain class of pseudopatriots to see in all dissent from the "policy" of the Executive at this time a proof of conscious or unconscious delinquency, but it seems that a majority of the House of Representatives has not yet been brought to take this view of political duty.

#### A RECONNOISSANCE IN THE VALLEY.

Correspondence of the New York Times. MIDDLE MILITARY DIVISION, DEC 23, 1864.

On Monday, the 19th instant, the Third Cavalry Division, Gen. Custer, started on a reconnoissance up the Valley, and returned to camp last evening, having successfully accomplished the object of the movement.

The column was preceded by a party of scouts, under Major Young. Rebel scouts were met with at intervals all along the road up to Woodstock, where the command went into camp the first night. On Tuesday morning the march was continued up the pike. At Edenburg three companies of rebel cavalry were picketing, but this force offered but little resistance, and were driven away by the scouts under Major Young, capturing four of the party. On Tuesday night the command encamped on both sides On Tuesday night the command encamped on both sides of the road, near Lacy's Spring, nine miles south of New Market, the First Brigade, Col. Pennington, being in advance; the Second Brigade, Gen. Chapman, in the rear. The usual precautions were taken to guard against surprise, and nothing transpired during the night to alarm the camp: but at about six o'clock (just before daylight) the owing morning, the pickets of the Second Brigade. (First New Hampshire Cavalry,) guarding a road leading in a westerly direction to the back road, gave an alarm, and instantly a whole brigade of rebel cavalry, headed by Gen. Payne, made a dash around the picket into the camp, and were within a few yards of the highth New York before discovered at that point. This regiment was instantly engaged, but, being overpowered by superior numbers, fell back, when the First Vermont, Col. Wells, and Fifteenth and Twenty second New York were brought in and the enemy were charged out of camp, and driven be-tween one and two miles. While the Second Brigade was thus engaged, a force of the enemy, estimated to number about three hundred men, charged in from the same side of the road upon the First Brigade. These were, in a very short time, driven off with heavy loss. Here the men of the Second Ohio sat in their saddles until the enemy were within fifty yards, when the Ohio boys commenced emptying rebel saddles with their seven shooters, and, after firing one volley, charged, scattering them in every direction. When the dash was made around the pickets of the First New Hampshire upon the Second Brigade about fifty of the First New Hampshire boys were cut off. These were all captured except Lieut. Col. Hutchings and fifteen men. Capt. Lee, provest marshal of the division, re-ports having received thirty three prisoners, (including two captains,) representing the Seventh, Eighth, and Twelfth After this brief affair, finding that Wharton's (late

Rhodes's) division of infantry was coming down the pike, and the special object of the expedition having been ac-complished, Gen. Custer fell back, without being molested by the enemy.

It appears that the enemy received early information of this movement on Monday night by scout to New Market and from thence the news was telegraphed to Staunton the infantry headquarters, and to Waynesboro, the cavalry headquarters. That night Rosser marched to Harrisburg. and the next morning moved down the back road, while the infantry came down the pike, and, by a forced march,

reached Lacy's Spring on Wednesday morning, when the At least fifteen of the enemy were killed, and a large number are known to have been wounded. Our loss was two killed and twenty-two wounded. The men suffered terribly from cold, and some of them had their feet frozen

The only rebel force now in the Valley is believed to be Rosser's cavalry and Wharton's division of infantry. The prisoners taken had not heard of Hood's disaster, nor do they know much about Sherman.

### POPULAR VOTE FOR PRESIDENT.

From the New York Tribune of Saturday. The Tribune Almanac for 1865, which will be published in a few days, will contain official returns of the vote for Presidential Electors from nearly every State in the Union. In consequence of the early meeting of the Electoral Colleges, it was impossible to get in all the returns in some of the large Western States, such as Missouri, Iowa, the Michigan Peninsula, Minnesota, &c., but these deficiencies are trivial, and make no difference in the relative proportion of the vote. The aggregate vote, as actually returned, is 3,957,702-say 4,000,000, including such as were excluded by being too late. Of those duly returned the respective candidates had-

Abraham Lincoln ...... 2.182.502 George Brinton McCleilan. Majority for Lincoln. 407,302

Taking the entire popular vote in all the States entitled to a voice, we may put Lincoln's clear majority at four Davis had been content with a consure of Mr. Seward's treatment of the House, he could have obtained it, but the hundred and fifty thousand. The vote in detail (estimating Oregon) is as follows, comparing with the same States President, 1864. President, 1860.

States.	Lincoln.	McClellan.	Lincoln.	All others.
California	43,844	26,357	39,173	79,667
Consecticut	44,691	42,285	43,792	33,454
Delaware	8,155	8,767	3,815	12 224
Illinois	189,496	158,730	172,161	167,532
Indiana	150,238	130,233	139,033	133,110
Iowa	89 075	49,596	70,409	57,922
Kansas	16 441	3,691		
Kentucky	26,592	61,478	1,364	144.852
Maine	61,503		62,811	35,107
Maryland	40,153	32,739	2.294	90,208
Massachusetts	126,742	48.745	106,533	62 642
Michigan	85,352	67,370	88,480	66,267
Minnesota	25,000	17,375	22,069	12,730
Missouri	71,192			148,490
Nevada, (est )	10,217	6.984		
New Hampshire.	34 382		37.519	28.434
New Jersey	60,723	68.024	58,324	62,801
New York	368,765	361,986	362,646	
Oh o	264,975		231,610	210 834
Oregon, (est.)	8,900	6,000	5,270	9,140
Pennsylvania	296 391	276,316	268 030	208,419
Rhode Island	13 69 2	8.740	12,244	7,707
Vermont	42,419		33,809	9,036
West Virginis	23,152		100	44 947
Wisconsin	80,082	63,028	86,110	66,070
Tota!	2,182,503	1,775,200	1.864,523	2.004.093
Per cent	55.15	44.85		
Lincoln's maj		Anti-		

Whole vote in 1860, 3,868,616; in 1864, (estimating tire vote for President in 1860, including all the Southern States, was 4,680,193

# WHOLESOME CHECK TO MILITARY USURPATION

From the Alexandria State Journal, (Repub. Some time since Col. White, Gen. Butler's provost marshal in Northampton and Accomac counties, issued an

Government suspended, as at Norfolk. President Lincoln. hearing of this fact, issued an order yesterday (22d) to

On the same day the President sent a communication this master of sic et non, "that Mr. Davis was not to Gen. Butler, stating to him that, as a rule of action, he far from right in his position, and the President was to interfere with the civil authorities in no case except where the military necessities required it, and in that case only so far as they required it. He stated that if the sani tary condition of any city was so bad as to endanger the President, was indeed, wholly in the wrong in this health of the soldiery, and the civil authorities would not despatch—there can be no doubt of it," and yet apply the necessary remedies, and in one or two other the beginning of the war with Mexico, he joined the forces "Mr. Seward has exhibited much more calmness contingencies mentioned by the President, the military commandant was authorized to take that particular matter into his own hands, and even to levy a tax upon the people to defray its expenses; but beyond that he had no

government were to be unmolested. We hope this settles the long-continued and unprofitable strife between our civil and military authorities. There are limits to the military authority, and within them the military commandant is supreme, but the administration of civil law, the suspension of civil government, and the in-stitution of military instead of civil courts, never was included within those limits. Then the civil power is supreme. Each jurisdiction is clearly defined, and he who errs in regard to the boundaries between them must err and ought to be held strictly responsible for

The organ of the Canadian Prime Minister advocates censure any proceeding of the President be tanta-mount to treason, but if the correspondent had Southern sympathizers from the province. THE WAR IN TENNESSEE.

HOOD'S PONTOON TRAIN TAKEN .- THE RE-BELS ABANDON THEIR TRAINS.

Despatches from Gen. Thomas, dated the 26th instant, represent his army as still in pursuit of Hood's broken and disorganized forces. He transmits to Gen. Halleck, from his headquarters at Pulaski, the following despatch

HEADQUARTERS CAVALRY CORPS,

Beyond Pulaski, December 25th.

There seems to be little doubt that the rebels have gon to Bainbridge, eight miles above Florence, fearing a flank movement from Stevenson. Two corps—Stewart's and Lee's—went by this road to Lexington. Cheatham's went toward Lawrenceburg, taking the classific transfer. Lee's—went by this road to Lexington. Cheatham's went toward Lawrenceburg, taking the old military road, eight miles below Lawrenceburg. The people say the rebels are suffering immensely. Buford's wound is said to be quite severe. A Mr. Carter says the Colonel commanding the pontoon transportation told him that he was going to Bainbridge. They left here on Thursday morning. Cheatham's ammunition transportation, of fifteen or twenty wagons, was abandoned here. The mules were put in to help the pontoons along. Gen. Lee was severely wanded help the pontoons along. Gen. Lee was severely wounded in the fight at Nashville. His corps is now commanded by Stevenson. The rebels have lost eighteen Generals in killed, wounded, and captured since they started North They acknowledge sixty-eight pieces of artillery lost.

JAMES H. WILSON,

Gen. Thomas, in transmitting the foregoing despatch,

"A later despatch, of six P. M. on the 25th instant, states that in pressing the enemy Harrison's brigade came upon the enemy's infantry, strongly posted in rail breast works, and so close did he rush up that in being compelled to fall back the loss of one gun was involved. tion was, however, taken ien minutes afterwards, but the enemy had run the gun off. The rebel force is eight brigades of five hundred to six hundred men each. Gen. Wood, ommanding the Fourth Corps, is in support of Gen. Wil on, and both will continue the pursuit zealously. I have eard from Steadman to-day. He disembarked his troops from cars on Limestone creek, seven miles from Decatur nd was marching on that place at seven A. M. to-day,

#### HOOD'S ARMY STEADILY RETREATING TO-WARDS THE TENNESSEE RIVER.

NASHVILLE, DECEMBER 28 .- The advance of our army was on Tuesday night twenty-one miles south of Colum bia, about half-way between that place and the Tennessee river. The roads, on account of the heavy rains, are nearly impassable. Hood is steadily retreating before our advancing troops. Prisoners who have deserted are being brought in every day. Two hundred reached here yesterday. It is reported that Hood intends to reach the Tennessee river, near the mouth of Elk river. Gen. Thomas having forced him considerably to the east, the military authorities consider the situation very encourag ing. Railread and telegraphic communication is open to Columbia, on the Tennessee and Alabama rivers, and the road will soon be in running order to Chattanooga. The rivers are at a stand, with eighteen feet of water on the

### THE RIGHT OF ASYLUM.

The able and lucid explanation of the Toronto Globe, of the 22d, of the principles of the right of asylum, and of the rue sentiments of the Canadian people in relation to it and its violation, will commend itself to the American public as an additional evidence of the sincerity of our neighbors in their intention to prevent in future, as far as they possibly can, any repetition of our border difficulties. Want of space prevents our giving the entire article, but we append ts concluding paragraph as exemplifying its tone throughout:
"We tell the apologists for the lelonious doings of the Southern chivalry that they misunderstand the Canadian people. They are not the unprincipled, short-sighted fools they suppose them to be. They cherish the right of asylum as they do their fealty to the Crown, but they know it to be inconsistent and subversive of that right that this land should be made the rendezvous where banditti may congregate unmolested, confessedly to perpetrate deeds which 'shall make civilization shudder.' They will not permit it, though they should take arms in their hands and expel the marauders from their soil. Confident that we speak the sentiments of the people, certain that every true Canadian heart will respond to the words we have uttered, we call upon the Government, as they value the peace, prosperity, honor, and happiness of the land, that, at the approaching neeting of the Legislature, they will bring forward such measures as are necessary for the preservation of amity with our neighbors and the vindication of our truth before

We hope that the present honorable feeling of Canada will be responded to on our side by a return to the kindest and most friendly relations .- Detroit Free Press.

#### DEFALCATION OF AN INTERNAL REVENUE COLLECTOR

It has lately been discovered that L. G. Berry, the Collector of Internal Revenue at Detroit, is a defaulter in the sum of over \$100,000. He is represented as being one of nouncing honest men as "copper-heads," "traitors," "rebel sympathizers," etc., on account of their political opinions. His case has been taken in hand by the Detroit Board of Trade, which, under the lead of Mr. Duncan Stewart, an honorable and upright member of the Republican party, sdopted on Tuesday last the following memorial to the President:

BOARD OF TRADE ROOMS. Detroit, December 13, 1864. To his Excellency Abraham Lincoln

President of the United States:

The Board of Trade of the city of Detroit deem it a pub lic duty to call the attention of your Excellency to the use of the public funds by L. G Berry, Collector of Internal Revenue at this point.

For over three years the country has been covered with shame and filled with dismay at the almost daily discove ries of frauds upon the Government. The ease with which those implicated have escaped justice has been a premium to crime. Taxation has aroused the people to a sense of these enormities, and it is not to be supposed that heavy burdens will be borne patiently and without murmuring where such conduct is permitted and goes unpunished We have arrived at a point in the fortunes of the country where the Government must show its power and bonesty to retain the support and respect of the people—when jus-tice, in its sternest form, must overtake the wrong-doers, leaving no hope of pardon or escape. We sincerely be leaving no lope of parameters will find a response in the heart of your Excellency. We are of the opinion that exalted secial position, wealth, official station, political influence, and previous good character should militate against and not in wor of these who betray social trusts and violate implicit confidence. All these advantages are safeguards thrown around such persons, that men of less note have not, to

shield them from temptation. Many near and dear relatives and friends of the member of this Board have offered up their lives on the battle field as a willing sacrifice for the public good, and we would consider any further favor or lemency toward those who do so much to unhinge public confidence an outrage on the memories and a blot on the patriotism of the fallen brave. In their name, and in the name of the many burdens we so willingly bear, we pray that your Excellency will take such steps as will save the country for the future from these most disgraceful doings of dishonest and unfaithful men. For our own part we will never cease to hold up such men to the public scorn, and incite the public at large to demand from those in authority the immediate trial, conviction, and punishment of such offenders.

With great respect this Board remains your Excellency's faithful and obedient servants.

# THE LATE COL. CHARLES A. MAY.

This gallant officer, whose exploits in the old Regular Army during the Mexican war, were the theme of his ountry's praise, died suddenly of disease of the heart, at the New York Hotel, on Saturday last. Col. May was born in Washington, in 1818, and was appointed second under Gen. Taylor, and assumed the command of a squad-ron of his regiment. He took part in the battle of Palo Alto, and was breveted major for gallantry and distin-guished services in that action. He was one of the heroes f the following battle of Resaca de la Palma, where he charged a battery of eighteen-pounders, leading his dra-goods up to the guns, and sabreing the gunners at their neces. For this he received a brevet commission of ieuterant colonel, for gallantry and highly distinguished conduct in action. At the battle of Buena Vista, where he was wounded, he again distinguished himself, and the brevet of colonel was conferred upon him for gallant and meritorious conduct. Col. May resigned his commission in 1860, and having married the daughter of George Law. took up his residence in the city of New York, where he has since lived. For several years past he has been Superintendent of the Eighth Avenue Railroad - Com. Adv

Information has been received at the Interior Department of the discovery of an immense silver mine on the western slope of the Cascade Mountains, in Washington THE CAPTURE OF SAVANNAH.

Capture of One Hundred and Fifty Cannon and Large Supplies of Ammunition and Cotton.

Official despatches received at the War Department on Sunday evening from Generals Sherman and Foster announce the capture of Savannah on the 21st instant, with eight hundred prisoners, thirty-three thousand bales of cotton, one hundred and fifty heavy guns, thirteen locomotives, one hundred and ninety cars, and large stores of ammunition, &c. Gen. Hardee, anticipating an assault, evacuated the city on the preceding day and night, after blowing up the iron-clads and burning the navy yard. Most of the obstructions in the channel have been removed, and communication has been opened with the steamers. The city contains about twenty thousand inhabitants. We subjoin the despatches.

SAVANNAH, (GA.) DECEMBER 22. His Excellency President LINCOLN: I beg to present you as a Christmas gift the city of Savannab, with one hundred and fifty heavy guns and plenty of ammunition, and also about twenty-five thousand bales of cotton. W. T. SHERMAN, Major General.

STEAMER GOLDEN GATE.

Savannah River, December 22-7 P. M. To Lieut. Gen. GRANT and Maj. Gen. H. W. HALLECK: I have the honor to report that I have just returned from Gen. Sherman's headquarters in Savannah.

I send Major Gray, of my staff, as bearer of despatches from Gen. Sherman to you, and also a message to the President.

The city of Savannah was occupied on the morning of the 21st. Gen. Hardee, anticipating the contemplated assault, escaped with the main body of his infantry and light artillery on the morning of the 20th, by crossing the river to Union Causeway, opposite the city. The rebel ironclads were blown up, and the navy yard was burned. All the rest of the city is intact, and contains twenty thousand citizens, quiet and well disposed.

The captures include eight hundred prisoners, one hundred and fifty guns, thirteen locomotives in good order, one hundred and ninety cars, a large supply of ammunition and materials of war, three steamers and thirty three thousand bales of cotton, safely stored in warehouses. All these valuable fruits of an almost bloodless victory have been, like Atlanta, fairly won.

I opened communication with the city with my steamers o-day, taking up what torpedoes we could see, and passing safely over others. Arrangements are made to clear the channel of all obstructions.

J. G. FOSTER, Major General.

By the steamer California, which arrived at Fortress Monroe on Sunday night, in fifty-eight hours from Fort Pulaski, in Savannah river, we have some additional particulars of the capture of Savannah, as follows:

" On the 20th instant, Gen. Sherman, having nearly com pleted the investment of the city and captured Fort Lee and several other minor outworks in the immediate vicinity of the principal entreachments surrounding the town, and planting his siege batteries in such close prox mity to the rebel lines as to command effectually every position held by the forces under the command of Gen. Hardee, sent a summons by flag-of-truce to the effect that if the place was not in a certain length of time surrendered bombardment and assault would be at once commenced. To this summons the wily rebel General sent back a reply that, as his communications were yet open, and his men fully supplied with subsistence stores of every kind, they were enabled to withstand a long siege, and he was determined to hold the city to the very last moment, and defend the citizens and the property which had been placed under his protection until his forces were overpowered and he be compelled to surrender.

"Every preparation had been made by Sherman to as sult the rebel position the next day, but when the morning of the 21st instant dawned it was ascertained that the enemy had evacuated their entrenchments. Several regiments of infantry immediately advanced and took possession of them, and shortly afterwards Gen. Sherman entered the city at the head of his body-guard, and received from the hands of a deputation of its citizens the surrender

of the place. "It appears that Gen. Hardee, on the night of the 20th. seeing the impossibility of holding the city, and fearing that the only means of escape left open to him-across the Savannah-was likely to be cut off at any moment, determined to avail himself of this route for his retreat. His troops immediately set to work to hastily destroy the navy yard and all the Government property, and at twilight, under the protection of two iron-clad rams, succeeded in crossing the Savannah river, over the causeway to the north side, intending to push forward to Charleston.

"Thirty-two thousand bales of cotton were stowed in the city, which the rebels in their haste neglected to destroy. The two iron-clad rams were sunk, and all the Government property and stores which they could not carry off with them they burned or threw into the river. Four steamers, one a small gunboat, were captured, which, together with the cotton and a large amount of the rebel munitions of war, form part of the spoils of the victorious army."

# THE PURSUIT OF HOOD.

A despatch from the correspondent of the Times with Gen. Thomas's army writes from Columbia, under date of the 234 instant, that Hood's pontoons and equipage have been captured, and that his cavalry have abandoned most of their wagon trains. The rebel army appears to be utterly demoralized. Another account, by way of Nashville, states that Hood's pontoons had been swept away. The Tennes. see river was u usually high, in many places inundating the surrounding country and rendering the passage over of Hood's army an impossibility. The headquarters of Gen. Thomas were still at Columbia on the 24th, although our army was pushing on after the rebel forces. It was rumored that Hood's soldiers were pressed so severely by their pursuers that they had been compelled to abandon their wagon trains.

# REBEL ACCOUNTS FROM SHERMAN.

The following extract from Richmond papers of Tuesday has been forwarded to the War Department by Gen. Grant:

"An official despatch from Gen. Beauregard, dated Deember 25, and received yesterday, states that Gen. Hardee reports that a force of the enemy's infantry, artillery, and cavalry has moved from Savannah towards the Altamaha river. Gen. Hardee has made proper dispositions to check the column. Its object is probably to destroy the Savannah, Albany, and Gulf Railroad, its depots, &c. No. report has been received from Gen. Hood since the 28th of November.

# THE REBELS IN KENTUCKY.

LOUISVILLE, DEC. 25 .- An officer of the 6th Kentucky, Latkins's brigade, reports that six hundred of Lyon's cavalry went from Elizabethtown to Heydensville yesterday, and that cannonading was heard at Muldragh Hill from the direction of Elizabethtown last evening, supposed from a collision between Generals McCook's and Lyon's

Headquarters are advised that the remainder of Lyon's troops, estimated at two thousand, with but one piece of artillery, left Elizabethtown at two o'clock this morning, going toward Heydensville, inquiring on the route the way to Greensburg. Lagrange's brigade of McCook's command was reported closely upon their rear. Lyon himself was at Hodgesville yesterday. His forces did not assail Muldragh kill this morning, according to their previously

announced intention. The damage to the railroad is so slight that it will be in

on Friday night Lyon's force was reported to have burned express train No. 4, which contained a detachment of two hundred soldiers and three officers, en route to Nashville to join Sherman's army. The officers and sol-diers were paroled, the former retaining their side-arms